



REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES' FOUNDATION INC.

2023 Scholarship and Awards of Excellence

The RPNF proudly celebrates the accomplishments of Registered Psychiatric Nurses, and Psychiatric Nursing students. This year at its Annual Scholarships & Awards Reception held on May 10, the RPNF provided 3 scholarships and awarded 5 Awards of Psychiatric Nursing Excellence. Three former Psychiatric Nurses were also honoured with Special Recognition for their contributions to the RPNF over time. On June 2 & 3, the RPNF awarded two Gold Medals of Excellence to graduating students of the Brandon University BScPN program at their pinning ceremonies, one from the Brandon Campus and one from the Winnipeg Campus.

Scholarships are awarded to students of Psychiatric Nursing and Registered Psychiatric Nurses who have met specified criteria and are enrolled in approved under-graduate, or graduate education programs which advance the profession of Psychiatric Nursing. For more information, go to rpnf.ca

RPNF Undergraduate Scholarship (3rd Year)



Katrina Pander
Winnipeg, MB
Brandon
University

Katrina's work history within a range of health care programs to date has provided valuable experience engaging with individuals requiring services, while collaborating with multidisciplinary teams providing often complex care. As a volunteer, Katrina has been mentored in DBT skills groups and has assisted with immunization clinics in schools and hospitals. She has applied learning from these settings to her studies. As a Psychiatric Nurse, Katrina would like to work in acute care and crisis stabilization and ultimately provide individual counselling services.

RPNF Undergraduate Scholarship (4th Year)



Jessica Parkin
Brandon, MB
Brandon
University

Jessica has worked as a health care aide in a number of settings ranging from private services, long term care, child & adolescent treatment, acute psychiatry as well as the emergency room. Some of Jessica's goals in Psychiatric Nursing are to establish strong therapeutic relationships and ensure that individuals are aware of appropriate mental health resources and interventions. She appreciates the links between physical and mental health, and wants to advance strategies that mitigate stigma in health care settings.

RPNF Graduate Scholarship



Riley Hammond
Edmonton,
Alberta
Clinical Health
Academy,
University of
Alberta

Riley's research study is entitled, *What is found in the Shadows? Building Opioid Care Pathway Integration using the Health Systems Dynamic Framework: Unearthing the Lived Experiences of People Who Use Drugs in an Urban Canadian Central Business District*. His research investigates how physical and social characteristics of the built environment combine to shape health and harm reduction perceptions and practices of people who use drugs in Canadian cities. It is hoped that the study's findings will foster Psychiatric Nursing advocacy for implementation of recommendations, as well as catalyze further research in these areas.





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The Awards of Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Practice are presented to nominated Registered Psychiatric Nurses (practicing in Manitoba) to acknowledge contributions of RPNs to the profession within the four domains of Psychiatric Nursing practice: leadership, clinical, education and research. This year the foundation presented five awards.

Award of Excellence-Clinical



Pam Anderson

Pam Anderson has been a Registered Psychiatric Nurse for over 30 years. She stands out in the profession, having delivered services in the Community Mental Health Program, Emergency Room Psychiatric Nursing, the addictions field, as well as working in private practice as a Crisis Clinician and operating her business “Go To Gal” in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. In addition to these areas, Pam provides long term care services in personal care and is Client Support Coordinator with the Alzheimer’s Society in Portage la Prairie. While Pam has worked with children and adults throughout her career, her heart has always been drawn to working with seniors. Pam’s compassionate approach to mental health assessment and intervention with aging individuals is one of her unique strengths, skillfully putting the person, their family and provider-teams at ease. Pam is a catalyst for meaningful change and improvement at all levels of her work, educating individuals and their families, as well as service providers around her through her personable, common sense approach.

Award of Excellence-Clinical



Paola Dubiel

Paola is an exemplary RPN presently practicing in ambulatory care at St. Boniface Hospital. Throughout her 25+ year career she has also worked in in-patient settings, crisis services and the emergency department. Paola pioneered the Psychiatric Nursing role in the ambulatory care department, defining the role and establishing a culture of highly skilled, autonomous Psychiatric Nurses who work side-by-side with psychiatry. Paola has been a champion for co-occurring approaches to intervention, having co-developed group curriculum which she continues to utilize in her practice. She stays abreast of evolving evidence and trends, and always incorporates determinants of health into the work she does. She is known for her compassionate, empathic, and non-judgemental approach. One of Paola’s outstanding accomplishments was initiating and acquiring funding to offer seasonal social gatherings for low-income, isolated individuals. She doesn’t hesitate to take on extra roles such as providing education sessions both in hospital and community, and has been actively involved in promoting staff recognition and engagement.





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Award of Excellence-Clinical



Haley Riedle

Haley Riedle has made a tremendous difference through her work with individuals seeking services at the Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine Clinic in Winnipeg. She is one of the first people greeting individuals when they come to the clinic and provides a positive, welcoming experience by quickly connecting, evaluating the person's needs and assisting them to meet their goals using evidence-based, trauma-informed care. Most importantly, Haley establishes an environment of safety and instills hope for recovery. Haley brings a calmness to the work, using the therapeutic relationship to promote engagement with the treatment plan, facilitating many success stories. Within the community, Haley volunteers with Project Safe Audience, an organization that provides peer-based harm reduction services. Haley has a strong work ethic and is recognized for her dedication to addictions medicine and her passion for helping people.

Award of Excellence-Leadership



Charlene Shepard

Charlene is the lead Nurse at the Program of Assertive Community Treatment, within the Community Mental Health Program in Winnipeg. She is highly organized, providing mentorship and support to each member of the team. Charlene assists individuals requiring services using best practice approaches such as teaching new skills, improving quality of life and walking with them through recovery. She helps with problem-solving when fellow staff encounter challenging clinical situations and encourages each person to be the best version of themselves. As a leader in a community program, Charlene is very skilled at advocacy with external agencies, helping to break down barriers that make it difficult for people to gain access to supports. She brings positivity, supports others, and takes on a leadership role with her peers, program participants and the community .

Award of Excellence-Education



Dana Naismith

Dana Naismith is a much-admired tenured professor at Brandon University and teaches within the Psychiatric Nursing program at the Winnipeg campus. While she teaches a range of classes throughout the program, she is particularly well-known by students for their positive experience in her Addictions class. Students often contemplate work in the addictions field having been influenced by Dana's passion for recovery. Dana employs innovative and engaging learning opportunities including immersion experiences with 12-step-programs, student movie reviews about films focusing on addictions, and hosting individuals with lived addictions experience as guest speakers. Dana encourages class participation, is open and accepting of feedback, and pushes students to perform at their best, both academically and as future Psychiatric Nurses. She is comfortable talking about difficult subjects and ensures that students come away from her classes with a clear and honest view of addiction, mental illness, and the role of Registered Psychiatric Nurses in the recovery journey.





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Special Acknowledgements



Dr. Beverley Hicks

2023 was Dr. Beverley Hicks' final year with the foundation concluding many years as Director and strong ambassador for the RPNF. In addition to key roles in promotion, communications and partnerships, Beverley has chaired and co-chaired the RPNF Scholarship Committee which is a primary area of the foundation's focus. The work of current and past directors has been enriched by the wealth of Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing experience, as well as academic accomplishment brought by Beverley to the foundation's efforts. As part of her support of the RPNF, Beverley contributed a portion of the proceeds from her recently published (and award-nominated) book [Politics, Personalities & Persistence](#). Beverley has been an active and engaged RPNF Director, encouraging fellow Directors and Executive Committee Members in times of challenge and celebrating each accomplishment. The RPNF would like to formally thank Beverley for her commitment to the RPNF and to Psychiatric Nursing.



Dr. Annette
Thorimbert
Osted

Annette Osted has been a long time supporter of the RPNF, serving as one of its original 3 Directors as well as Executive Member, President, and Volunteer. Annette was Executive Director of the Registered Psychiatric Nursing Association of Manitoba (now the CRPNM) for 35 years, dedicating her career to the evolution of the profession of Psychiatric Nursing in the areas of education, practice and legislation. She was instrumental in establishing the first baccalaureate degree in Psychiatric Nursing in Canada in 1995. In recognition of these significant accomplishments, Brandon University conferred Annette with a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) in 2012. Annette's national undergraduate scholarship provided academic support to 12 Psychiatric Nursing students and she continues to support the RPNF in many areas. Annette remains a fierce advocate for Psychiatric Nurses and Psychiatric Nursing students. Many thanks to Annette for her immeasurable commitment to the RPNF.



Dr. Marlene
Fitzsimmons

Marlene Fitzsimmons has been a visionary leader and avid supporter of the Psychiatric Nursing profession throughout her career. Founder of the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation(1980), Marlene has played an integral role in supporting the foundation's development and governance structure. She has been an Executive, serving as President, Past President, and ongoing advisor. Marlene's scholarship, recently converted to a grant has supported Psychiatric Nurses enrolled in certificate programs or presenting at conferences. Marlene has always been fully invested, and inspires this same commitment in those surrounding her, Psychiatric Nurses, students, or community members alike. Marlene was granted a lifetime membership with the CRPNM and was conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 2009, the first Registered Psychiatric Nurse to receive this degree. The RPNF wishes to recognize Marlene's contributions and thank her for being a mentor to us all.





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Medal of Excellence-Brandon University, BScPN

The RPNF's Medal of Excellence is awarded annually to a graduating student who has consistently demonstrated leadership, academic excellence and clinical proficiency in the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program, from each Brandon University campus. Criteria includes involvement in professional, community and/or student activities, high achievement in clinical courses, including the senior practicum, and high attainment in prescribed coursework. The 2023 recipients are:



Mary Waldner
(Brandon Campus)



Haley Pelland
(Winnipeg Campus)

RPNF Spring 50 / 50 Raffle Winner

The RPNF held its 3rd Annual 50/50 Raffle this spring! Thank-you to all who participated in this great fundraising event.

This year's winner of \$1207.50, drawn on May 10, 2023 at the RPNF Scholarships & Awards Reception is Laura Irwin, Winnipeg. Congratulations!

The RPNF also offers the following Scholarship and Grants, noting that this year there were not qualified applicants.

- McCormick-Henry National Scholarship - \$1000: Awarded to a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Canada who is taking further studies in seniors' mental health at a masters or doctoral level or through an accredited certificate program.
- Marlene Fitzsimmons Grant - \$500: Awarded to a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Canada enrolled in a certificate program or to an RPN who has been accepted as a presenter at a conference that requires them to travel.
- RPNF Indigenous Studies Grant - minimum \$300.00: Awarded to an RPN licensed to practice psychiatric nursing in Canada who can show proof of enrollment in a recognized Indigenous Cultural Safety training program (such as the [San'Yas Anti-Racism Indigenous Cultural Safety training program](#)). This grant will be awarded to those who are not able to access the cost of such a program through their employer/regional health authority.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation is incredibly proud of the accomplishments of the RPNF Scholarships and Awards recipients. They are an inspiration to the profession and are leaders in the field.

Join us in congratulating the winners on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) or visit our website at www.rpnf.ca.

Join our mailing list by signing up at <https://www.rpnf.ca/support-the-foundation/be-on-our-mailing-list>.

A sincere thank-you to our Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation Donors who make these Scholarships and Awards possible. Go to <https://www.rpnf.ca/support-the-foundation/donations> to learn how you can support the RPNF.

